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Gardner-Webb University Donates Used Computers to Local Electronics Recycling Program

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Donation is a “Win-Win” for University and for Cleveland Vocational Industries

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – In what’s being called a “win-win” for both sides, Gardner-Webb University Technology Services is donating more than 150 used computers and electronic devices to Cleveland Vocational Industries’ (CVI) Electronics Recycling (e-recycling) program. The donation will cut down on environmental waste and bolster CVI’s efforts to take the lead in the local e-recycling industry.

E-recycling is the reuse of still-functional computers and electronic devices, and the proper and environmentally responsible disposal of electronics that cannot be reused. “Many citizens don’t realize that you can no longer dump electronic items at a landfill,” said Mike Reynolds, director of CVI’s Green Electronic Asset Recycling (GEAR) program. “So the e-recycling industry is really going to develop over time.”

CVI is a non-profit agency in Shelby created in 1984 to provide employment and training opportunities for individuals who have functional limitations, as a way to improve their quality of life. “The GEAR program gives our clients the chance to learn a new job skill. It’s great training and exciting for them to do something like dismantle a computer.”

According to Reynolds, all funds earned from GEAR’s recycling initiative will be used to assist other CVI programs. “In today’s economy, we cannot rely solely on government funding like we used to. We have to find other ways to support ourselves, and this is a great way to do that.”

While other organizations offer e-recycling services, Joey Bridges, the associate vice president for Technology Services at Gardner-Webb, said he is especially proud to support CVI because of its unique mission. “If we can support organizations that make a real difference in the community, like CVI, then it’s well worth it.” This type of donation is becoming a habit for Bridges’ team, who also recently gave computers to Crossroads Rescue Mission in Shelby, a long-term residential substance abuse recovery facility, for office use.

Reynolds said CVI hopes to offer its e-recycling services to other businesses and organizations in Cleveland County. “As part of our services, we even come to you and pick up those older or unusable electronic items.”

For more information about CVI, or to arrange an e-recycling pick-up, call 704-471-0606 or visit cvi.org.

Gardner-Webb University seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction and compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.